

## CLAIMS

1. An animation creating apparatus comprising:  
a voiced/silent decision section that decides  
5 whether speech is voiced or silent and outputs a decision  
result in continuous values indicating degrees of  
voicedness; and  
an animation creating section that creates lip-sync  
animation using the voiced decision result output from  
10 said voiced/silent decision section.
2. The animation creating apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein said voiced/silent decision section outputs  
continuous values indicating said degrees of voicedness.  
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3. The animation creating apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein said animation creating section sequentially  
selects corresponding images from a plurality of  
prestored images using the voiced/silent decision result  
20 output from said voiced/silent decision section and  
creates lip-sync animation.
4. An animation creating method comprising:  
a voiced/silent decision step of deciding whether  
25 speech is voiced or silent and outputting a decision result  
in continuous values indicating degrees of voicedness;  
and

an animation creating step of creating lip-sync animation using the voiced decision result output from said voiced/silent decision step.